

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2018 -19 launched

On 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the Union Government, in consultation with the RBI 2018 decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2018 – 19.

Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019 through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges such as the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

### Highlights of the Sovereign Gold Bonds:

- ★ Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- ★ Minimum permissible investment will be 1 gram of gold.
- ★ The maximum limit of investment shall be 4 kg for individual, 4 Kg for HUF and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities in a year (April – March).
- ★ The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 percent per annum, payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- ★ Bonds can be used as collateral or security for loans. The loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
- ★ The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). The capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted.
- ★ Bonds will be tradable on stock exchanges within a fortnight of the issuance on a date.

## Global Hunger Index 2018

India was ranked 103 out of 119 qualifying countries in the Global Hunger Index 2018 report. It was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely, Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthunger (Germany)

GHI is tool that measures and tracks hunger globally, by region, and by country. The Global Hunger Index (GHI ) ranks the countries based on 4 key indicators – undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting.

Focus of the GHI 2018 is Forced Migration and Hunger. According to the report, India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".

India is ranked below many neighbouring countries, including China (25<sup>th</sup> spot), Nepal (72), Myanmar (68), Sri Lanka (67) and Bangladesh (86). However Pakistan is placed at the 106<sup>th</sup> position.

Zero is the best score and a reading above 100 is the worst. The latter signifies that a country's undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality levels are at the highest level, it noted.

As per the report, around 124 million people suffer acute hunger in the world, a striking increase from 80 million two years ago while the reality of hunger and under nutrition continues to have a massive impact on the next generation.

### Some of the observations are as follows:

- ★ Zimbabwe, Somalia, and Central African Republic (CAR) have the highest rates of undernourishment.

- ★ Timor–Leste, Eritrea, and Burundi have the highest stunting rates.
- ★ Child Wasting is most prevalent in Djibouti, India, and South Sudan.
- ★ The highest under–five mortality rates are in Somalia, Chad and Central African Republic (CAR).
- ★ The six countries with alarming levels of hunger are Chad, Haiti, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Yemen, and Zambia.
- ★ One country suffering from an extremely alarming level of hunger is the Central African Republic (CAR).

The question remains whether the world will achieve United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, which aims to end hunger, ensure food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030 or not.

### **Asian Para Games 2018 concluded**

2018 Asian Para Games officially known as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Para Games held from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Indonesia's capital city of Jakarta.

On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the games officially opened by Joko Widodo, the president of Indonesia. The games officially closed by Majid Rashsed, the President of the Asian Paralympic Committee belongs to UAE.

Events were held in the host city Jakarta and in Bogor Regency of West Java province. The opening ceremony was held at Gelora Bung Karno Main Stadium. The closing ceremony was held at Gelora Bung Karno Madya Stadium. Both stadiums located at Jakarta, Indonesia.

The games use the same Athletes' Village as the 2018 Asian Games which was built at Kemayoran.

The official mascot of the Games is a Bondol eagle named Momo whose name is short for motivation and mobility. Momo represents the icon of the capital city of Jakarta and also represents spirit.

### **Momo, mascot of the 2018 Asian Para Games**

North Korea and South Korea march under the Korean Unification Flag at the opening ceremony and for the first time competed as a unified team in some events.

Bhutan first time participated and chess introduced in the present Asian Para Games. Rowing, sailing, 5 and 7–a–side football, wheelchair dance sport and wheelchair rugby are removed events this year.

Asian Para Games 2018 had 512 events in 18 sports comprising 506 medal events and six events which are not medal events because of the limited number of participants.

China led the medal tally for the third consecutive time, clinched 172 Gold, 88 Silver and 59 Bronze totaling 319 medals.

India record best–ever medal haul, end with totaling of 72 Medals. India stood at 9<sup>th</sup> place claiming 15 Gold, 24 Silver and 33 Bronze. In 2014, India managed to win 33 medals altogether.

Philippines and Kuwait won their first ever Asian Para Games gold medals, while Laos and East Timor won their first ever Asian Para Games medals including their first gold medals.

Asian Para games 2014 hosted by Incheon (South Korea) and in 2022 the Asian Para games to be hosted by Hangzhou (China).

Gold medalists from India in Asian Para Games

Name	Sport	Event
Sandeep Chaudhary	Para Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F42-44/61-64 Final
Suyash Jadhav	Para Swimming	Men's 50M Butterfly S7 (6-7)
Raju Rakshita	Para Athletics	Women's 1500M T11
Ekta Bhyan	Para Athletics	Women's Club Throw F32/51
Manish Narwal	Para Shooting	P1 – Men's 10M Air Pistol – SH1
Narayan Thakur	Para Athletics	Men's 100M T35
Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's Individual Recurve Open – W2/ST
Sharad Kumar	Para Athletics	Men's High Jump T42/63
Parul Parmar	Badminton	Women's Singles SL3
Kishan Gangoli	Chess	Men's Individual Rapid VI – B2/B3
Jennitha Anto Kanickai	Chess	Women's Individual Rapid P1
Neeraj Yadav	Para Athletics	Men's Javelin Throw F55
Amit Saroha	Para Athletics	Men's Club Throw F51
Tarun	Badminton	Men's Singles SL4
Pramod Bhagat	Badminton	Men's Singles SL3

MODEL QUESTIONS

- Sovereign Gold Bond 2018 – 19 operational guide lines issued by RBI on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. These bonds issued by RBI on behalf of .....?
  - 1) SBI
  - 2) World Bank
  - 3) Muthoot Finance
  - 4) Government of India
  - 5) National Stock Exchange
- The RBI sold the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) to buyers through .....?
  - 1) banks
  - 2) designated Post Offices
  - 3) recognised Stock Exchanges
  - 4) Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL)
  - 5) All of above
- India's rank at the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is.....?
  - 1) 44
  - 2) 95
  - 3) 100
  - 4) 103
  - 5) 119

4. Child wasting refers to number of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute under nutrition. As per GHI 2018 Child Wasting is most prevalent in South Sudan, Djibouti and in .....?
- 1) CAR                                      2) Somalia                                      3) India                                      4) Sierra Leone  
5) Zimbabwe
5. The Asian Para Games 2022 to be hosted by .....?
- 1) New Delhi, India                                      2) Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei  
3) Yerevan, Armenia                                      4) Baku, Azerbaijan  
5) Hangzhou, China
6. Mascot of 2018 Asian Para Games is .....?
- 1) SOMEITY                                      2) Atung                                      3) Momo                                      4) Bhin Bhin  
5) MIRAITOWA

**KEY: 1-4; 2-5; 3-4; 4-3; 5-5; 6-3.**

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